



*Projects and Programs
2005 – 2008*



The **National Center for Special Education Research (NCSE)** in the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) began its operation on July 1, 2005. Since that time, we have funded nearly 100 new research and research training projects. We have strong research portfolios in a number of areas, including early intervention and early childhood special education; interventions to improve reading, writing, and language development for children with disabilities; and interventions to improve outcomes for students with serious behavior disorders.

NCSE is stimulating special education research on teacher quality, mathematics and science education, transition outcomes for secondary students with disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, and systems-level interventions in special education. Through our research grant programs, we are supporting research to develop and evaluate interventions for children with low incidence disabilities, as well as high incidence disabilities. We have projects that focus on interventions for students with visual impairments, for students with significant cognitive disabilities, and for students with hearing impairments.

This past year we launched our postdoctoral research training grant program in special education to increase the supply of scientists and researchers in education who are prepared to conduct rigorous evaluation studies, develop new interventions that are grounded in a science of learning, and design and validate measurement instruments for students in special education. Five institutions received awards this year to begin training postdoctoral research fellows.

I am proud of the work that is being accomplished by NCSE researchers. This booklet is a compilation of all the NCSE research and training grants and contracts. The projects listed here represent a new generation of education research – research that is rigorous, relevant, and intended to improve the quality of special education in the United States.

Lynn Okagaki
Acting Commissioner for Special Education Research

Projects and Programs

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EARLY INTERVENTION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION

FY 2008 AWARDS

Name of Institution: University of Virginia

Principal Investigator: Martha Snell

Goal: Development

Title: *Building Social Competence for School Success through a Continuum of Positive Behavior Supports*

Name of Institution: Ohio State University

Principal Investigator: Laura Justice

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Sit Together and Read: Early Childhood Special Education*

Name of Institution: University of Illinois

Principal Investigator: Michaelene Ostrosky

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Establishing the Efficacy of the "Special Friends" Project*

Name of Institution: Oregon Social Learning Center

Principal Investigator: Katherine Pears

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *A Randomized Efficacy Trial of the Kids in Transition to School Program for Children with Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Problems*

FY 2007 AWARDS

Name of Institution: SRI International

Principal Investigator: Kathleen Hebbeler

Goal: Exploration

Title: *Early Intervention Graduates at Kindergarten: Analyses of Outcomes from the National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study*

Name of Institution: Oregon Research Institute

Principal Investigator: Barbara Gunn

Goal: Development

Title: *Developing and Testing an Empirically-Based Preschool Language and Literacy Curriculum for Children At-Risk for Reading Disabilities Using a Components Analysis*

Name of Institution: Vanderbilt University

Principal Investigator: Mary Louise Hemmeter

Goal: Development

Title: *Examining the Potential Efficacy of a Classroom Wide Model for Promoting Social Emotional Development and Addressing Challenging Behavior in Preschool Children With and Without Disabilities*

Name of Institution: Georgia State University

Principal Investigator: MaryAnn Ronski

Goal: Development

Title: *Parent-Implemented Language Intervention for Young Children with Developmental Disabilities*

Name of Institution: University of Florida

Principal Investigator: Patricia Snyder

Goal: Development

Title: *Impact of Professional Development on Preschool Teachers' Use of Embedded-Instruction Practices*

Name of Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Principal Investigator: Robin McWilliam

Goal: Development

Title: *Tennessee Early Intervention Data System Plus: Integrating Quality Assurance and Data-Based Decision Making To Enhance IFSP Quality, Implementation, and Child and Family Outcomes*

Name of Institution: Arizona State University

Principal Investigator: M. Jeanne Wilcox

Goal: Development

Title: *Development of an IFSP Form and Process to Maximize Learning Opportunities for Young Children with Disabilities*

Name of Institution: University of Kansas

Principal Investigator: Charles Greenwood

Goal: Measurement

Title: *The Infancy to Preschool Early Literacy Connection: Validation Studies of the Early Communication Indicator of Growth and Development*

Name of Institution: Iowa State University

Principal Investigator: Gayle Luze

Goal: Measurement

Title: *Individual Growth and Development Indicator Comprehensive Assessment Project*

FY 2006 AWARDS

Name of Institution: San Diego State University Research Foundation

Principal Investigator: Vera Gutierrez-Clellen

Goal: Development

Title: *Vocabulary, Oral Language, and Academic Readiness: A Language Intervention for Latino Preschool English Language Learners with Language Disorders*

Name of Institution: Georgia State University Research Foundation, Inc

Principal Investigator: Amy Lederberg

Goal: Development

Title: *Improving Deaf Preschoolers' Literacy Skills*

Name of Institution: Arizona State University

Principal Investigator: M. Jeanne Wilcox

Goal: Development

Title: *The Development and Efficacy of a Curriculum-Based Language and Early Literacy Intervention for Preschool Children with Developmental Disabilities*

Name of Institution: Vanderbilt University

Principal Investigator: Ann Kaiser

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Improving Language and Literacy Outcomes for Preschool Children at Highest Risk for Reading Problems*

Name of Institution: Florida State University

Principal Investigator: Christopher Lonigan

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *A Randomized Trial of Preschool Instructional Strategies to Improve School Performance and Reduce Use of Special Education*

Name of Institution: Texas A&M Research Foundation

Principal Investigator: Deborah Simmons

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Project Early Reading Intervention*

Name of Institution: University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center

Principal Investigator: Phillip Strain

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Learning Experiences Alternative Program for Preschoolers and Parents - Using Science-Based Approaches*

READING, WRITING, AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

FY 2008 AWARDS

Name of Institution: Georgia State University

Principal Investigators: David Houchins

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Project LIBERATE: Literacy Instruction Based on Evidence through Research for Adjudicated Teens to Excel*

Name of Institution: Arizona State University
Principal Investigators: Maria Adelaida Restrepo
Goal: Measurement
Title: *Spanish Screener for Language Impairment in Children*

FY 2007 AWARDS

Name of Institution: Georgia State University
Principal Investigator: Paul Alberto
Goal: Development
Title: *Integrated Literacy for Students with Moderate and Severe Disabilities*

Name of Institution: State University of New York at Albany
Principal Investigator: Lynn Gelzheiser
Goal: Development
Title: *Extending the Interactive Strategies Approach to Older Struggling Readers*

Name of Institution: Georgia Institute of Technology
Principal Investigator: Thad Starner
Goal: Development
Title: *CopyCat: Learning Through Signing*

FY 2006 AWARDS

Name of Institution: University of Connecticut
Principal Investigator: Michael Coyne
Goal: Development
Title: *Project IVI: Intensifying Vocabulary Intervention for Kindergarten Students at Risk of Learning Disabilities*

Name of Institution: Florida State University

Principal Investigator: Howard Goldstein

Goal: Development

Title: *Project ILIAD: Independent Lexical Instruction and Development*

Name of Institution: University of Kansas

Principal Investigator: Diane Loeb

Goal: Development

Title: *Development of a Culturally-Based Language and Vocabulary Intervention for Elementary School Children with Language Impairments and Children who are at High Risk for Developing Learning Disabilities*

Name of Institution: Teachers College, Columbia University

Principal Investigator: Joanna Williams

Goal: Development

Title: *An Intervention to Enhance Expository Text Comprehension Via Text Structure Instruction for Primary-Grade At-Risk Students*

Name of Institution: Georgia State University

Principal Investigator: Robin Morris

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Multiple-Component Remediation for Struggling Middle School Readers*

Name of Institution: Vanderbilt University

Principal Investigator: Donald Compton

Goal: Measurement

Title: *Response-to-Intervention as an Approach to Preventing and Identifying Learning Disabilities in Reading*

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

FY 2008 AWARDS

Name of Institution: Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning

Principal Investigator: Sheila Arens

Goal: Development

Title: *Visualizing Science With Adapted Curriculum Enhancements*

Name of Institution: University of North Carolina-Charlotte

Principal Investigator: Diane Browder

Goal: Development

Title: *Project Mastery: Math and Science Teaching that Promotes Clear Expectations and Real Learning Across Years for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*

FY 2007 AWARDS

Name of Institution: The Pennsylvania State University

Principal Investigator: Paul Morgan

Goal: Exploration

Title: *Instructional Effects on Achievement Growth of Children with Learning Difficulties in Mathematics*

Name of Institution: The University of Texas at Austin

Principal Investigator: Diane Bryant

Goal: Development

Title: *Validating a Response to Intervention Multi-Tiered Model for Primary Grade Students With Mathematics Difficulties*

Name of Institution: CAST, Inc.

Principal Investigator: Anne Meyer

Goal: Development

Title: *The Universally Designed Science Notebook: An Intervention To Support Science Learning For Students With Disabilities*

Name of Institution: University of Miami

Principal Investigator: Marjorie Montague

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Improving Mathematics Performance of At Risk Students and Students with Learning Disabilities in Urban Middle Schools*

FY 2006 AWARDS

Name of Institution: Mississippi State University

Principal Investigator: Brenda Cavanaugh

Goal: Exploration

Title: *The Effects of School Climate and Supports on Mathematics Achievement for Students with Visual Impairments*

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

FY 2008 AWARDS

Name of Institution: The Regents of the University of California, San Francisco

Principal Investigator: Linda Pfiffner

Goal: Development

Title: *Collaborative School-Home Behavioral Intervention for ADHD*

Name of Institution: Virginia Commonwealth University

Principal Investigator: Maureen Conroy

Goal: Development

Title: *Promoting Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Competence in Young High-Risk Children: A Preventative Classroom-Based Early Intervention Model*

Name of Institution: Louisiana State University
Principal Investigator: Frank Gresham
Goal: Development
Title: *Development of Universal, Selected, and Intensive Social Skills Intervention Programs*

2007 AWARDS

Name of Institution: University of Oregon
Principal Investigator: K. Brigid Flannery
Goal: Development
Title: *Systematic Analysis and Model Development for High School Positive Behavior Support*

Name of Institution: University of Oregon
Principal Investigator: Robert Horner
Goal: Development
Title: *Enhancing Data-Based Decision-Making in Schools*

Name of Institution: The Pennsylvania State University
Principal Investigator: Linda Mason
Goal: Development
Title: *Writing Instruction for Adolescents with Behavior Disorders: Scaffolding Procedural Learning to Extended Discourse*

Name of Institution: University of Washington
Principal Investigator: Gregory Benner
Goal: Efficacy and Replication
Title: *Think Time Efficacy Study*

Name of Institution: University of Kansas

Principal Investigator: Debra Kamps

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Class-Wide Function-Based Intervention Teams: A Research to Practice Agenda for Functional Behavior Assessment*

Name of Institution: Johns Hopkins University

Principal Investigator: Philip Leaf

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Testing The Impact of PBIS Plus*

Name of Institution: University of Oregon

Principal Investigator: Jane Squires

Goal: Measurement

Title: *Preventing Behavior Disorders and Improving Social-Emotional Competence for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities*

FY 2006 AWARDS

Name of Institution: Vanderbilt University

Principal Investigator: Kathleen Lane

Goal: Development

Title: *The Effects of Strategy and Self-Regulation Instruction on Students' Writing Performance and Behavior: A Preventative Approach*

Name of Institution: Idaho State University

Principal Investigator: Stephanie Peterson

Goal: Development

Title: *Concurrent Schedules of Reinforcement and Adjusting Demand Requirements: Effects on Communication, Compliance, and Problem Behavior*

Name of Institution: The State University of New York at Buffalo

Principal Investigator: William Pelham, Jr.

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Adaptive Treatments for Children with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder*

Name of Institution: University of Florida

Principal Investigator: Stephen Smith

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Universal Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Elementary Students to Reduce Disruptive/Aggressive Behavior*

Name of Institution: SRI International

Principal Investigator: Mary Wagner

Goal: Scale-up Evaluations

Title: *Early, Evidence-Based Intervention for Externalizing Behavior Problems in School: From Efficacy to Effectiveness of the First Step to Success Program*

Name of Institution: University of Connecticut

Principal Investigator: Sandra Chafouleas

Goal: Measurement

Title: *Project VIABLE: Validation of Instruments for Assessing Behavior Longitudinally and Efficiently*

Name of Institution: Georgia State University

Principal Investigator: Randy Kamphaus

Goal: Measurement

Title: *Development and Validation of a Screener for Behavioral and Emotional Problems in Elementary and Middle School*

TRANSITION OUTCOMES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SECONDARY STUDENTS

FY 2008 AWARDS

Name of Institution: University of Oregon

Principal Investigator: Deanne Unruh

Goal: Development

Title: *Project READY: Research on Employability Skills for Adjudicated Youth with Disabilities*

2007 AWARDS

Name of Institution: Board of Regents, University of Nebraska

Principal Investigator(s): Mike Epstein and Alexandra Trout

Goal: Development

Title: *On the Way Home: A Family-Centered Academic Reintegration Intervention Model*

Name of Institution: The University of Missouri-Columbia

Principal Investigator: Gail Fitzgerald

Goal: Development

Title: *Electronic Performance Support Systems as Assistive Technologies To Improve Outcomes for Secondary Students*

Name of Institution: University of Oregon

Principal Investigator(s): Lauren Lindstrom and Bonnie Doren

Goal: Development

Title: *Project: PATHS - Postschool Achievement Through Higher Skills*

Name of Institution: The University of Kansas

Principal Investigator: Michael Wehmeyer

Goal: Development

Title: *Determining the Efficacy of the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction To Improve Secondary and Transition Outcomes for Students With Cognitive Disabilities*

FY 2006 AWARDS

Name of Institution: University of Wisconsin

Principal Investigator: Erik Carter

Goal: Development

Title: *Project Summer: Improving Summer Employment and Community Inclusion Outcomes for Adolescents and Young Adults with Disabilities*

Name of Institution: Portland State University

Principal Investigator: Laurie Powers

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Project Success: Improving the Educational Outcomes of Youth with Disabilities in Foster Care Through Enhanced Self-Determination*

TEACHER QUALITY

FY 2007 AWARDS

Name of Institution: Florida State University

Principal Investigator(s): Tim Sass and Li Feng

Goal: Exploration

Title: *The Effects of Teacher Preparation and Professional Development on Special Education Teacher Quality*

Name of Institution: University of Florida

Principal Investigator: Mary Brownell

Goal: Development

Title: *The Influence of Collaborative Professional Development Groups & Coaching on the Literacy Instruction of Upper Elementary Special Education Teachers*

Name of Institution: The University of Illinois at Chicago

Principal Investigator(s): Marie Tejero Hughes and Michelle Parker-Katz

Goal: Development

Title: *Collaborative Teacher Network*

Name of Institution: The University of Kansas

Principal Investigator: Jim Knight

Goal: Development

Title: *Improving Instruction Through Implementation of the Partnership Instructional Coaching Model*

RELATED SERVICES

FY 2008 AWARDS

Name of Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Principal Investigator: Steven Camarata

Goal: Development

Title: *Related Services Intervention for Expressive and Receptive Language Skills in Autism Spectrum Disorder and in Cognitive Impairment*

SYSTEMIC INTERVENTIONS AND POLICIES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

FY 2008 AWARDS

Name of Institution: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Principal Investigator: Virginia Buysse

Goal: Development

Title: *Recognition and Response: A Response to Intervention Model for Early Childhood*

Name of Institution: Iris Media, Inc.

Principal Investigator: Brion Marquez

Goal: Development

Title: *Online Teacher Training: Promoting Student Social Competence to Improve Academic and Behavioral Outcomes in Grades K-3*

Name of Institution: University of Kansas

Principal Investigator: Hugh Catts

Goal: Measurement

Title: *Early Identification of Children with Reading Disabilities within an RTI Framework*

FY 2007 AWARDS

Name of Institution: The University of California, Riverside

Principal Investigator: Rollanda O'Connor

Goal: Development

Title: *Precision in Response to Intervention Models: Variations of Measurement, Instruction, Student Language, and Age*

Name of Institution: The University of Oregon

Principal Investigator(s): K. Brigid Flannery and Bonnie Doren

Goal: Development

Title: *Building Effective and Meaningful Individualized Education Programs for Secondary Aged Students*

Name of Institution: SRI International

Principal Investigator: Geneva Haertel

Goal: Measurement

Title: *Principled Science Assessment Designs for Students with Disabilities*

Name of Institution: University of Oregon

Principal Investigator: Gerald Tindal

Goal: Measurement

Title: *Assessments Aligned with Grade Level Content Standards and Scaled to Reflect Growth for Students with Disabilities and Persistent Learning Problems*

FY 2006 AWARDS

Name of Institution: The State University of New York at Buffalo

Principal Investigator: Gregory Fabiano

Goal: Development

Title: *Enhancing Individual Education Plans for Children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Using a Daily Report Card*

Name of Institution: University of Illinois

Principal Investigator: James Shriner

Goal: Development

Title: *IEP Quality Improvement: Research and Development of Web-Based Decision Support*

Name of Institution: University of Hawai'i

Principal Investigator: Robert Stodden

Goal: Development

Title: *"I" in the IEP*

Name of Institution: Educational Testing Service

Principal Investigator: Cara Cahalan-Laitusis

Goal: Measurement

Title: *National Accessible Reading Assessment Projects: Research and Development for Students with Visual Impairments*

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

FY 2008 AWARDS

Name of Institution: University of Buffalo, SUNY

Principal Investigator(s): Martin Volker and Christopher Lopata

Goal: Development

Title: *Development of an Intervention to Enhance the Social Competencies of Children with Asperger's/High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders*

Name of Institution: University of Pennsylvania

Principal Investigator: David Mandell

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Efficacy and Sustainability of the STAR Program*

FY2007 AWARDS

Name of Institution: Rady Children's Hospital Health Center

Principal Investigator: Aubyn Stahmer

Goal: Development

Title: *Translating Pivotal Response Training Into Classroom Environments*

Name of Institution: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Principal Investigator: Linda Watson

Goal: Development

Title: *Social Communication and Symbolic Play Intervention for Preschoolers With Autism*

Name of Institution: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Principal Investigator: Samuel Odom

Goal: Efficacy and Replication

Title: *Comparison of Two Comprehensive Treatment Models for Preschool-Aged Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders and Their Families*

SPECIAL EDUCATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Name of Institution: University of Kansas

Principal Investigator: Charles Greenwood

Goal: No Goal

Title: *Center for Response to Intervention in Early Childhood*

Name of Institution: Lehigh University

Principal Investigator: Lee Kern

Goal: No Goal

Title: *National Research and Development Center on Serious Behavior Disorders at the Secondary Level*

SPECIAL EDUCATION POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH TRAINING GRANTS

Name of Institution: University of Texas at Austin

Principal Investigator: Sharon Vaughn

Goal: Training

Title: *Postdoctoral Research Training Fellowship Program*

Name of Institution: University of Connecticut

Principal Investigator: Sandra Chafouleas

Goal: Training

Title: *Postdoctorate in Behavior Education and Research*

Name of Institution: University of California Riverside

Principal Investigator: H. Lee Swanson

Goal: Training

Title: *Postdoctoral Methodological Training in Instruction, Reading, Math, and Cognition Research on Children At Risk for Learning Disabilities*

Name of Institution: Vanderbilt University

Principal Investigator: Karen Harris

Goal: Training

Title: *VU Department of Special Education Postdoctoral Intervention Research Training Program*

Name of Institution: Georgia State University

Principal Investigator: Randy Kamphaus

Goal: Training

Title: *Georgia Measurement and Assessment Training – Postdoctoral Program*

UNSOLICITED AND OTHER AWARDS

FY 2006 AWARDS

Name of Institution: University of Wisconsin - Madison

Principal Investigator: Thomas Kratochwill

Title: *Single-Case Research Design and Analysis: Applications in Educational Intervention Research*

FY 2005 AWARDS

Name of Institution: University of Texas - Austin

Principal Investigator: Natasha Beretvas

Title: *Methodological Investigation of Effect Size Estimates Used in Meta-Analyses of Single-Case Research Design Results*

Name of Institution: University of California - Merced

Principal Investigator: William Shadish

Title: *Methods for Meta-Analysis of Single-Subject Designs*

Other Awards

*The following projects were awarded through the Office of Special Education Programs prior to the establishment of NCSER.

Name of Institution: University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Principal Investigator: Diane Browder

Title: *RAISE: Reading Accommodations and Interventions for Students with Emergent Literacy*

Name of Institution: Educational Testing Service

Principal Investigator: Cara Cahalan-Laitusis

Title: *Developing Accessible and Valid Reading Assessments: A Research Based Solution*

Name of Institution: Southern Methodist University

Principal Investigator: Patricia Mathes

Title: *Maximizing Literacy Learning Among Children with Mild to Moderate Mental Retardation*

Name of Institution: Georgia State University

Principal Investigator: Rose Sevcik

Title: *Evaluating the Effectiveness of Reading Interventions for Students with Mild Mental Retardation*

Name of Institution: University of Minnesota

Principal Investigator: Martha Thurlow

Title: *Research on Accessible Reading Assessments*

Behavior Research Centers

Name of Institution: University of Washington

Principal Investigator: Douglas Cheney

Title: *Evidence-Based Interventions for Severe Behavior Problems: Check, Connect, and Expect*

Name of Institution: University of South Florida
Principal Investigator: Donald Kincaid
Title: *Evidence-Based Interventions for Severe Behavior Problems: The Prevent-Teach-Reinforce Model*

Name of Institution: Oregon Research Institute
Principal Investigator: Hill Walker
Title: *Evidence-Based Interventions for Severe Behavior Problems: First Step to Success*

Name of Institution: Vanderbilt University
Principal Investigator: Joseph Wehby
Title: *Reducing Severe Problem Behavior in Schools*

Name of Institution: SRI International
Principal Investigator: Mary Wagner
Title: *National Behavior Research Coordination Center*

Evaluations and National Longitudinal Studies

Name of Institution: SRI International
Principal Investigator: Jose Blackorby
Title: *National Study on Alternate Assessments*

Name of Institution: Westat
Principal Investigator: Marsha Brauen
Title: *An Evaluation of States' Monitoring and Improvement Practices Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

Name of Institution: Westat
Principal Investigator: Elaine Carlson
Title: *Pre-Elementary Education Longitudinal Study*

Name of Institution: SRI International
Principal Investigator: Mary Wagner
Title: *National Longitudinal Transition Study-2*

Funding Opportunities

Visit <http://ncser.ed.gov/> for information about funding opportunities at the National Center for Special Education Research.



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